CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-1767
O'Connor House
8308 Thornton Road
Baltimore, Baltimore County
1930 ca.
Private

Located in the vicinity of Riderwood, the O'Connor House is a dwelling that might date to the 19th century. Prior documentation of the property states that the house is "reported to have been twice gutted and rebuilt." Whether this apparent reconstruction occurred before or after circa 1930 is presently unknown. However, exterior architectural evidence suggests that the building dates to circa 1930. It's Colonial Revival appearance might be a result of reconstruction of an earlier building, and an interior architectural survey accompanied by deed and historic research would help to determine the dwelling's construction date. The dwelling does not appear on either the 1850 or 1877 county atlases. It might be the A.E. Waters House of the 1915 atlas. If this latter possibility is the case, then the Colonial Revival appearance is the result of circa 1930 alterations to an earlier structure.

Although prior documentation on the O'Connor House suggests that it might pre-date the 20th century, there is no exterior architectural evidence to support this possibility. Alterations to the structure have resulted in the building's Colonial Revival style appearance. The side gable roof is clad in wood shingles and hangs over the south elevation as a roof for the cantilevered second-story balcony. One exterior end stone chimney of random rubble stone construction bisects the north elevation. The two-story solid random rubble stone dwelling, which fronts east and sits back from Thornton Road along a gravel driveway, features an offset entry with a sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door with paneled soffit and recess and operable louvered wood shutters flanked by two 8/12 windows with operable paneled wood shutters. Three 8/8 windows with operable louvered wood shutters pierce the second story of the building. All façade openings have square-edged wood surrounds and sills. A one-and-a-half story ell connects the main block to the garage, which sits behind the dwelling. The circa 1930 garage is a one-and-a-half-story, two-bay-wide building with a solid random rubble stone foundation and side walls. The first story of the façade features two vehicle bays with roll-up wood doors below a gable field clad in board-and-batten siding below the wood-shingled front gable roof. One 6/6 window pierces the gable peak.

Inventory No. BA-1767

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of F	Property	(indicate preferred r	name)				
historic							
other	O'Conor House						
2. Location							
street and number	8308 Thornton I	Road				not for	publication
city, town	Baltimore					_ vicinity	
county	Baltimore Coun	ty					
3. Owner of	Property	(give names and mailing	addresses of a	II owners)		
name	Kenneth W. and	Carol A. Knapp					
street and number	8308 Thornton I	Road			telephone	Not Ava	ilable
city, town	Baltimore		state MD		zip code	21204	
4. Location	of Legal D	escription					
courthouse, registry	y of deeds, etc.	Baltimore County Courthous	se	liber	9999 folio 3	73	3
city, town	Towson	tax map 60	tax parcel	424	tax I	D number	1900011143
Contril Contril Deterr Deterr	buting Resource in buting Resource in mined Eligible for the nined Ineligible for ded by HABS/HAE to Structure Report	n National Register District n Local Historic District the National Register/Maryla the National Register/Maryla the National Register/Maryla tr tor Research Report at MH	nd Register land Register				
o. Classifica	LIOII						
Category districtX_building(s)structuresiteobject	Ownership publicX_privateboth	Current Function agriculturecommerce/tradedefenseX_domesticeducationfunerarygovernmenthealth careindustry	landscaperecreationreligionsocialtransportawork in propertionunknownvacant/no	n/culture ation rogress		ng Nor	ncontributing buildings sites structures objects Total ting Resources the Inventory

7.	Descri	otion			

Inventory No. BA-1767

-			Carrier .
Co	ndi	tı	on

	_ excellent	deteriorated		
X	good	ruins		
	_ fair	altered		

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Although prior documentation on the O'Connor House suggests that it might pre-date the 20th century, there is no exterior architectural evidence to support this possibility. However, the structure has apparently been gutted and rebuilt to separate times. These alterations to the structure have resulted in the building's Colonial Revival style appearance. The side gable roof is clad in wood shingles and hangs over the south elevation as a roof for the cantilevered second-story balcony. One exterior end stone chimney of random rubble stone construction bisects the north elevation. The two-story solid random rubble stone dwelling, which fronts east and sits back from Thornton Road along a gravel driveway, features an offset entry with a sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door with paneled soffit and recess and operable louvered wood shutters flanked by two 8/12 windows with operable paneled wood shutters. Three 8/8 windows with operable louvered wood shutters pierce the second story of the building. All façade openings have square-edged wood surrounds and sills. A one-and-a-half story ell connects the main block to the garage, which sits behind the dwelling.

The circa 1930 garage is a one-and-a-half-story, two-bay-wide building with a solid random rubble stone foundation and side walls. The first story of the façade features two vehicle bays with roll-up wood doors below a gable field clad in board-and-batten siding below the wood-shingled front gable roof. One 6/6 window pierces the gable peak.

8. Signific	ance			Inventory No. BA-1767
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and j	ustify below	
1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 X 1900-1999 2000-	agriculture archeology X architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation	economics education engineering entertainment/ recreation ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement	health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime history military	performing arts philosophy politics/government religion science social history transportation other:
Specific dates	1930 capresent		Architect/Builder Unki	nown
Construction da	ates 1930 ca.			
Evaluation for:				
	National Register	N	Maryland Register	Xnot evaluated
			_	

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Located in the vicinity of Riderwood, the O'Connor House is a dwelling that might date to the 19th century. Prior documentation of the property states that the house is "reported to have been twice gutted and rebuilt." Whether this apparent reconstruction occurred before or after circa 1930 is presently unknown. However, exterior architectural evidence suggests that the building dates to circa 1930. It's Colonial Revival appearance might be a result of reconstruction of an earlier building, and an interior architectural survey accompanied by deed and historic research would help to determine the dwelling's construction date. The dwelling does not appear on either the 1850 or 1877 county atlases. It might be the A.E. Waters House of the 1915 atlas. If this latter possibility is the case, then the Colonial Revival appearance is the result of circa 1930 alterations to an earlier structure. ¹

The land now encompassing the community formerly known as Riderwood Station and Post Office began to take shape as early as 1850, when the Northern Central Railroad extended north roughly parallel with the present Bellona Avenue and intersected with West Joppa Road. The town took its name from the Rider family, who owned significant amounts of land at this intersection. The 1850 county atlas reveals the land as improved with a cotton mill, general store, school house, and Hunt's Meetinghouse. The farms that traversed the landscape were subdivided over the next twenty-seven years, and by 1877, many additional dwellings were constructed in the area. Located west of Towson and south of Lutherville, Riderwood appears to have been the location of a few country houses owned by wealthy families. The Walnut Hill, Chestnut Summit, and Rider family estates were located here. The 1915 county atlas confirms that Riderwood was a suburban residential community along the railroad line. By 1915, several large suburban estates fronted West Joppa Road and Bellona Avenue, and the area retains its turn-of-the-twentieth century character.

¹ Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

² J.C. Sidney, Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

³ Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).
⁴ Map of Baltimore County (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1767

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979. Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acre	_		
nown	_		
keysville	Quadrangle scale:	1:24,000	
	nown keysville	nown	nown

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction circa 1930, the O'Connor House has been associated with the 2.48 acres of land known as tax parcel 424 of map 60 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

11. Form Prepared by

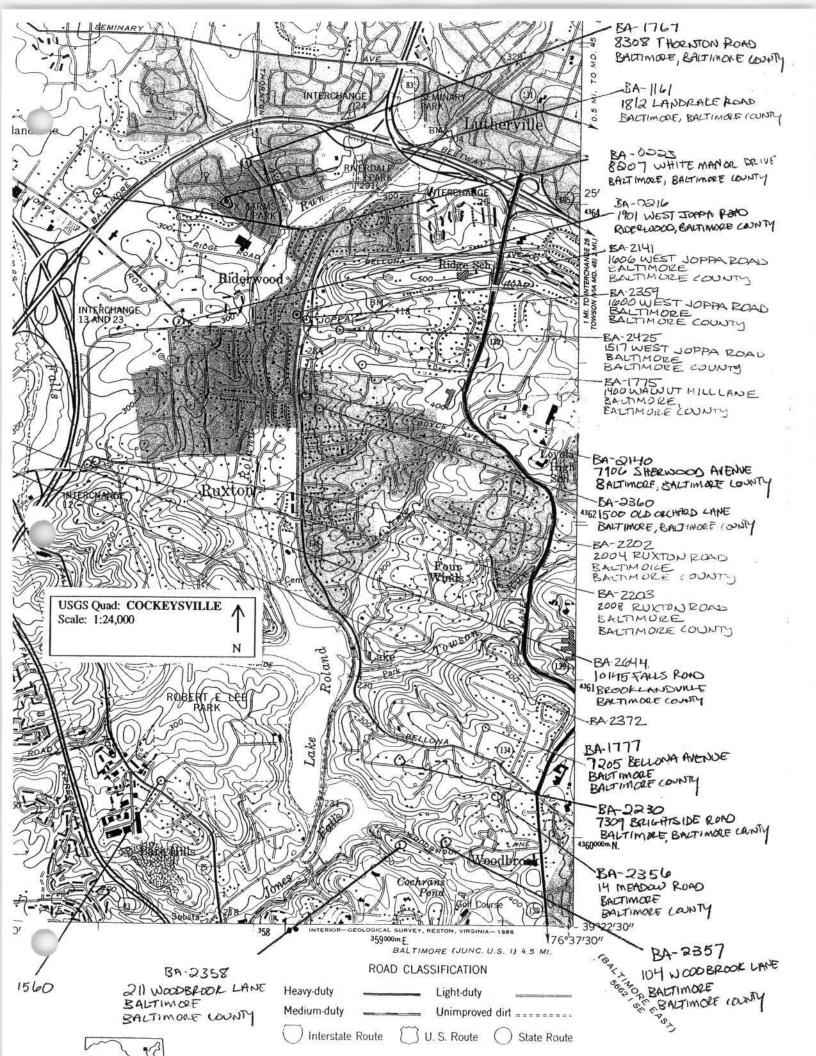
name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians	_	
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 29, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust DHCD/DHCP 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-514-7600





BATTOT 8308 THURNTON RUAD, BATTMURE BATTMURE COUNTY, MD TRACERIES 4/2001 MD SIAPO

1672

SE CORNER



BA-1767 8308 THORNTON ROAD, BACTIMORE BACTIMORE COUNTY, MD

20f2

4/2001

MDSHPO

NW CORNER

CAPSULE 8308 THORNTON ROAD

There is little or no physical evidence supporting a local claim that this house is a 19th century building that stood on Thornton farm. Two complete guttings and inconclusive records leave the question of its date unanswered. What should be noted, however, is that this building is a well constructed dwelling with some distinction of design. When seen in the broader context of regional building techniques its heavy stone construction seperates this house from many in other areas of the state and country.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

HISTORIC				
AND/OR COMMON				
LOCATION	I			
STREET & NUMBER				
6308	Thornton Rd.		CONGRESSIONAL DIST	RICT
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STATE Marvl.	and		COUNTY Baltimore	
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CIM IDDII IC				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	SENT USE
_DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	_MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE	_UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
_STRUCTURE	ВОТН	_WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	X_PRIVATE RESIDE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X_YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATIO
		_NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
O III III O	F PROPERTY			
	t J. O'Conor		Telephone #:32]	L -1 311
Rober STREET & NUMBER			Telephone #:32	1-1311
Rober STREET & NUMBER 8308	t J. O'Conor Thornton Rd.			
Rober STREET & NUMBER 8308 CITY, TOWN	Thornton Rd.	VICINITY OF	STATE,	zip code
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RODER STREET & NUMBER 8308 CITY, TOWN TOWSO LOCATION	Thornton Rd. n — — N OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION	STATE, : Maryland	zip code
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BA-1767

CONDITION

__DETERIORATED

__EXCELLENT

X_GOOD

_FAIR

RUINS

__RUINS

CHECK ONE

__UNALTERED

XALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE

_MOVED DATE Jan.,1

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Most of the original fabric of this building has been altered or replaced. However, oral history and records suggest that this building was once part of the large estate of the Rider family.

The two story stone (Gneiss) main block is three bays wide and two bays long with several additions to the South and West. A gable end roof tops the main block and is covered with wooden shingles. The exterior walls contain wide pointing (Approximately 2") between stones of random size, varying in colors ranging from light brown to charcoal.

Fenestration is somewhat irregular in placement, as the openings are off center on the main block. The east facade has the first opening in the northernmost bay measuring 4½ from the end, while the southernmost opening measures 9' 3" from that end. 8/12 sash windows on the upper level of this facade with louvered and paneled shutters are characteristically interchanged on the other facades. Each window has beaded mouldings and rounded sills.

The northern end features a massive exterior chimney measuring 22" deep and 11' 3" wide. Other dominant characteristics include the asymmetrical shoulders (one being flat on the east side and the other round) and a centrally located 6/6 sash window.

A wing extending from the main block has the appearance of a one room up/one down type house. The wall construction, fenestration, etc., is the same as the main block.

A two car garage stands 5' from this projecting wing and is also of similar construction. This building is characterized by two large wooden arched doors.

There was limited interior access. However. examination of the full basement below the main block reveals stone walls, sawn joists covered with white wash, and wire nails. Although this evidence does not support the theory of this being a 19th century building, it has been reported by the owner that the interior has been gutted twice.

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
_PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
_1800-1899	COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

See below

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There is little or no physical evidence supporting a local claim that this house is a 19th century building that stood on Thornton farm. Two complete guttings and inconclusive records leave the question of its date unanswered. What should be noted, however, is that this building is a well constructed dwelling with some distinction of design. When seen in the broader context of regional building techniques its heavy stone construction seperates this house from many in other areas of the state and country.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Land Records

GEOGRAPHICA	L DATA				
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PR	OPERTY				
VERBAL BOUNDARY DE	SCRIPTION				
2					
See Attachment			e e e 1959	3 1 54	
LIST ALL STATES A	AND COUNTIES	FOR PROPERTIES OVERLA	PPING STATE OR	COUNTY BOUNDARI	ES
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The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

CHAIN OF TITLE FOR # 8308 THORNTON TOAD Parcel 424, Map 70

LIBER	FOLIO	DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE
4310	421	June 8, 1964	Richard L. Godine & wife	Robert J. O'Conor & wife
	southw of lan	esterly from the end990/175, Decemb	rnton Ave. at distance of 340 d of North 75° 2' East 306.58 er 21, 1936 Cambridge Court, fmancontaining 5.07 acres.	ft. line Inc. to
3650	230	December 21, 1959	Frank Markoe, Jr.	Richard L. Godine & wife
1866	499	September 1, 1950	James Frenkil & wife	Frank Markoe, Jr. & wife
1549	387	March 22, 1947	Helen Walter Thomsen & hus.	James Frenkil & wife
10114	53	October 7, 1937	Burton P. Hoffmann& hus.	Helen Walter Thomsen
1000	286	May 22, 1937	Cambridge Court, Inc.	Burton P. Hoffmann & hus.
990	175	December 21, 1936	Cambridge Court, Inc.	Burton P. Hoffmann & hus.

